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SENATE RESOLUTION 134
By Atchley

A RESOLUTION to honor and commend Senator C. Coulter "Bud" Gilbert upon his meritorious service to the General Assembly and to the State of Tennessee.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly were deeply disappointed to learn that Senator Bud Gilbert of Knoxville has decided not to seek a third term in the Tennessee Senate; and

WHEREAS, in announcing his decision not to seek re-election, Senator Gilbert stated:

"For the last seven years the people of the Seventh Senatorial District have granted me the high honor and privilege of representing them in Nashville, But it is time to step aside and contribute to my community in another fashion"; and

WHEREAS, Senator Gilbert has always firmly believed in term limits for elected officials in high office, and he cited this strongly held conviction as one factor in his decision to retire from the General Assembly; and

WHEREAS, Senator Gilbert has most certainly demonstrated during his accomplished tenure on Capitol Hill that elected officials can make meaningful contributions without making public office a lifestyle; and

WHEREAS, Senator C. Coulter "Bud" Gilbert serves with acumen and ability as the Chair of the Senate Environment, Conservation and Tourism Committee, as the Senate Chair of

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the Workers' Compensation Oversight Committee and as a valuable member of the Senate Transportation Committee; and

WHEREAS, a native of Maryville, Tennessee, Bud Gilbert graduated from the University of Tennessee with highest honors as an Andy Holt Scholar in 1980; he received his law degree from Harvard Law School in 1983; and

WHEREAS, after practicing law with a Wall Street law firm, he returned to Knoxville in 1985, where he immediately immersed himself in community activities, including meritorious service as Chairman of the Main Street Knoxville program and the Knoxville Better Building Board, prior to seeking elected office; and

WHEREAS, Bud Gilbert is presently an attorney and shareholder with the Knoxville law firm of Kennerly, Montgomery and Finley, P.C. His areas of practice include municipal utilities, corporate law and estate planning, and he is a member of the American, Tennessee and Knoxville bar associations; and

WHEREAS, blessed by his parents with an extraordinary work ethic, Senator Gilbert conscientiously works over 2,000 hours each year in his law practice, while generously devoting a similar number of hours each year to public service; and

WHEREAS, in the past two years, Bud Gilbert has successfully authored and sponsored legislation to reform the Tennessee workers' compensation system, create a forestry advisory panel to address the state's forestry practices, implement the Governor's Task Force's recommendations aimed at stopping arson at places of worship, mandate medical insurance coverage for the treatment of diabetes, including education for diabetics, supplies and related drugs, and create the popular Friends of the Smoky Mountains special license plate; and

WHEREAS, during his exemplary eight-year tenure, Gilbert has also received numerous awards and accolades for his dedication and excellence as a legislator, including being named the Outstanding Freshman Legislator by Mothers Against Drunk Driving in 1992 for his landmark work on DUI reform and receiving the American Cancer Society's Legislative

Leadership Award in 1993, the Equal Rights For Victims Award in 1994 from the Tennessee Victims Coalition and Tennessee District Attorneys Conference, the 1995 County Officials Association of Tennessee's Outstanding Legislator Award, and the Conservation Legislator of the Year Award in 1995 from the Tennessee Conservation League for his outstanding contributions to the responsible use and management of Tennessee's natural resources, three (3) Bird Dog awards from Common Cause for Ethics, Honesty and Integrity in Government Service; and

WHEREAS, Senator Gilbert has contributed significantly to the Knoxville Estate Planning Council, Leadership Knoxville, Knoxville Civitan Club and The Downtown Organization by means of his sterling leadership and singular organizational skills; and

WHEREAS, he plans to continue playing an active role in community and church-related affairs after his retirement from the Senate, as he graciously contends: "I will never finish paying off the debt I owe to East Tennessee"; and

WHEREAS, whatever the future may hold for Bud Gilbert, we are confident that he will give 100% of his energies and talents to the task at hand, just as he does in all his endeavors; and

WHEREAS, Senator Bud Gilbert has served the good people of Knoxville and Senate District 7 with the utmost professionalism, probity, intelligence and integrity, and his estimable legislative career should be appropriately honored and recognized; and

WHEREAS, Senator Gilbert has worked long, hard hours for his constituents in the finest traditions of public service—not for personal profit or public acclaim, but rather the satisfaction of knowing that Tennessee is an even better place to live as a result of his diligent efforts; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE-HUNDREDTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, That this Body hereby pauses to honor and

recognize Senator C. Coulter "Bud" Gilbert for his meritorious service to this General Assembly and to the State of Tennessee and wish him much continued success.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That we salute Bud Gilbert upon his excellent service as a Senator, whose illustrious tenure has been notable for his astute vision for the future and his stalwart commitment to ensuring the good health and continued prosperity of all Tennesseans.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be prepared and presented to Senator Gilbert as a token of our esteem.